

House Resolution 395

By: Representatives Kaiser of the 59th, Porter of the 143rd, Epps of the 128th, Burkhalter of the 50th, Coleman of the 97th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and remembering the life of Mrs. Juanita Wilda Kesler Cleland; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Juanita Cleland was a woman of rare patience and compassion, a stellar
4 mother, and a model Georgian; and

5 WHEREAS, she was known for her industriousness and for her willingness to put others
6 before herself, working patiently while her husband, Hugh Cleland, served in the United
7 States Navy during World War II and later worked as a traveling salesman; and

8 WHEREAS, when her home life needed her undivided attention, she left her job as a
9 personal secretary to spend more time with her son, Max; and

10 WHEREAS, tragedy overtook the Cleland family on April 8, 1968, when Max suffered
11 devastating injuries from a grenade explosion while serving in the Vietnam War, and, like
12 many injured veterans, Max was thrown into a profound depression; and

13 WHEREAS, Max had the good fortune of having an extraordinary mother who not only
14 refused to let him slip away but went above and beyond the call of duty, tending the worst
15 of his mental and physical wounds; and

16 WHEREAS, she was by his side when he was elected Georgia's youngest state senator in
17 1970, was named by President Jimmy Carter to head the Veterans Administration in 1977,
18 was elected Georgia's Secretary of State in 1982, and served as a United States Senator from
19 1997 to 2003; and

20 WHEREAS, while Max spent 43 years in military and public service, Mrs. Cleland continued
21 to do whatever she could to help her son, developing the uncanny ability to address his needs
22 well before the thought had occurred to anyone else; and

1 WHEREAS, in life she commanded the esteem of her fellow Georgians; at her death it is
2 fitting and proper that we offer our sympathies to her family and friends; and

3 WHEREAS, Georgia has lost one of its most distinguished citizens with the unfortunate
4 passing of Mrs. Juanita Cleland.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
6 the members of this body join together to express their deepest regret at the passing of Mrs.
7 Juanita Wilda Kesler Cleland and extend their most sincere condolences to her family.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
9 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Honorable Max Cleland.